

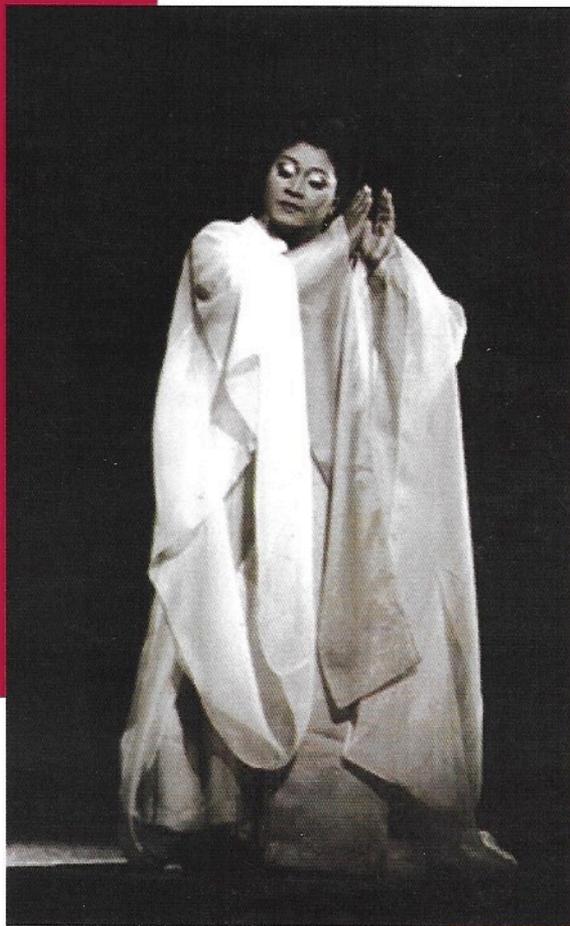
Muddy
River
Opera
Company

PROUDLY PRESENTS QUINCY'S OWN

Michèle Crider

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MUSIC BY

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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010 AT

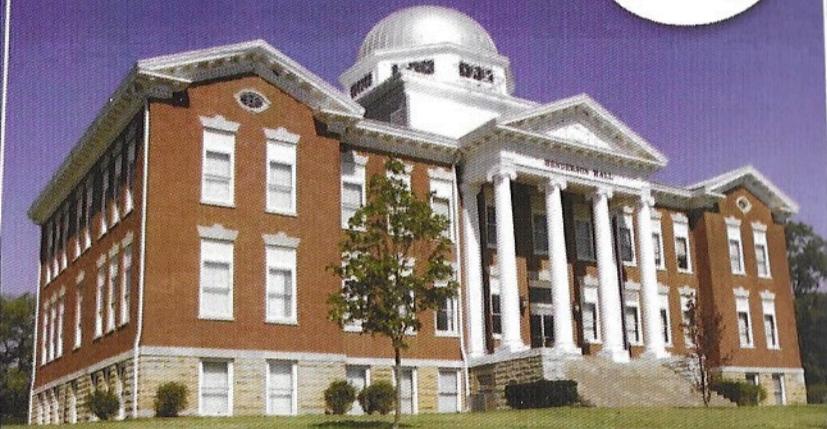
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010 AT

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Michèle Crider

C-SC class of '84

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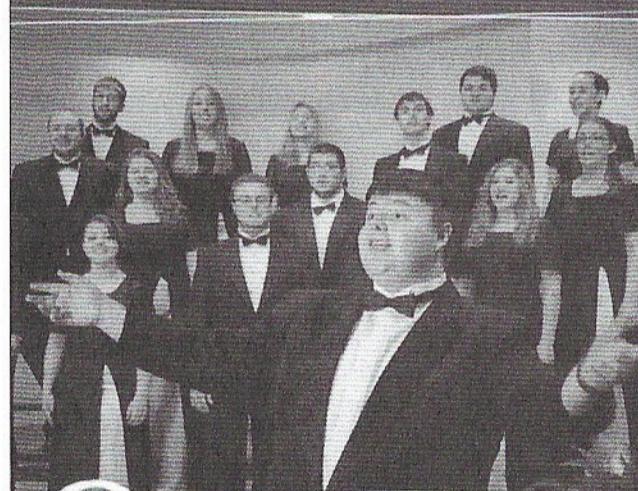
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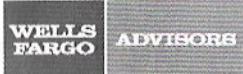
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Following the
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Performance
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MADAMA BUTTERFLY

The party will be held in the Lobby of the Civic Center.

Food and drink includes non-alcoholic wines, veggies, small sandwiches, chips, cheese & crackers, various spreads & dips, fresh fruit & a variety of desserts.

Admission is free to MROC members & donors.

Attendees at performance may purchase a ticket to attend at \$5.00 per person.

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MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Friday, May 28, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Opera Insight at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Opera Insight at 1:30 p.m.

Quincy Community Theatre

300 Civic Center Plaza

Quincy, Illinois

This production is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust Arts Fund and the business and individual members of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts.



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Past ✓

Madama Butterfly (Cio-Cio-San).....Michèle Crider
Madama Butterfly, Cover for Butterfly.....Carla Janzen
Suzuki (Butterfly's servant).....Jennifer Kosharsky
B.F. Pinkerton, Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.....Matthew Edwardsen
Goro, a marriage broker.....Jonathan Zeng
Sharpless, U.S. Consul at Nagasaki.....Thomas Hall
Prince Yamadori, Suitor for Butterfly.....Gregory Lewis
The Bonze, Butterfly's Uncle.....Aaron Stegemöller
Kate Pinkerton, Wife of Lt. Pinkerton.....Joy Boland
Imperial Commissioner.....Tom Sitzler
Official Registrar.....Brandon Thomsen
Trouble, Butterfly's child.....Ethan McVay
Servants.....Kaitlyn VanderMaiden
Kelsey Deters
Yakuside.....Allen Means
Butterfly's Mother.....Amy Walker
Butterfly's Aunt.....Elizabeth Parchim
Butterfly's Cousin.....Lacey Phillips

Chorus

Tara Hibbert
Andrea McCreedy
Elizabeth Parchim
Ann Pfaffe
Lacey Phillips
Amy Walker

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ATTENTION

Buy a Raffle ticket tonight or Sunday and win half of the money collected in sales. Second and Third Prizes will be 1000 piece puzzles of Japanese Geisha which, when finished, would be suitable for framing. Fourth and Fifth prizes are a bottle of red Opera House Wine donated by the Village Vineyard Winery of Camp Point, Illinois. Sixth Prize is a large 100th Anniversary poster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, great for framing and hanging on wall of family room, donated by Kay Boese. Tickets may be purchased before the opera, or during intermission.

Drawing Sunday, May 30

Tickets: \$10 each

Orchestra ✓

Conductor	Andrea Molina
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Violin II	Kamen Petkov Meagan Lareau Brianne Bokish
Viola	Joan Mast Kae Blecha
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Bass	Kennedy Moore
Flute	Renee Inghram Roberta Huff
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Clarinet	Christine Damm Jean Murray
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Artistic Staff

Stage Director.....	Mark James Meier
Artistic Director.....	✓, Avril Marie Bernzen
Conductor/Music Director.....	✓, Andrea Molina
Lighting & Set Designer.....	✓, Paul Denckla
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Sora Park
Chorus Master.....	Paul Shelor
Chorus Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Robert March
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Set Design, Lighting, Sound.....	Paul Denckla
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	William Winn
Set Construction.....	Paul Denckla
	David Scharnhorst
Light Board.....	Don Johnson
Painting.....	Barbara Stoll
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	Leonora Gehrich
	Mary Shelor
Raffle/Party Tickets.....	Tom Fentem
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Musical Numbers

Act I

E soffitto ... e pareti (Pinkerton, Goro, Suzuki, Sharpless)
Dovunque al mondo (Pinkerton, Sharpless, Goro)
Amore e grillo (Pinkerton, Sharpless, Chorus, Goro)
Quanto cielo! Quanto mar! ... Ancora un passo or via (Chorus, Butterfly)
Gran ventura (Butterfly, Chorus, Pinkerton, Sharpless, Goro)
L'Imperial Commissario (Goro, Pinkerton, Chorus, Butterfly, Cousin, Mother, Yakuside, Aunt, Sharpless)
Vieni, amor mio! (Pinkerton, Butterfly, Goro)
Tutti zitti! (Goro, Imperial Commissioner, Chorus, Sharpless, Registrar, Pinkerton)
Cio-Cio San! Cio-Cio San! (The Bonze, Chorus, Butterfly, Goro, Pinkerton)
Bimba, bimba, non piangere (Pinkerton, Chorus, Butterfly, Suzuki)
Viene la sera ... (Pinkerton, Butterfly, Suzuki)
Bimba dagli occhi pieni ci malia (Pinkerton, Butterfly)
Vogliatemi bene, un bene piccolino (Butterfly, Pinkerton)

Act II

E Izaghi ed Izanami (Suzuki, Butterfly)
Un bel di, vedremo (Butterfly)
C'e. Entrate (Goro, Sharpless, Butterfly)
Yamadori, ancor le pene dell'amor (Butterfly, Yamadori, Sharpless, Goro)
Ora a noi (Sharpless, Butterfly)
Ebbene, che fareste (Sharpless, Butterfly)
E questo? E questo? (Butterfly, Sharpless)
Che tua madre dovra (Butterfly, Sharpless)
Vespa! Rospo maledetto! (Suzuki, Butterfly, Goro)
Una nave de guerra (Suzuki, Butterfly)
Scuoti quella fronda di ciliegio, "Flower Duet" (Butterfly, Suzuki)
Or vienmi ad adornar (Butterfly, Suzuki)
Humming Chorus (Chorus)

Act III

Oh eh! Oh eh! (Chorus)
Gia il sole! (Suzuki, Butterfly, Sharpless, Pinkerton)
Io so che alle sue pene (Sharpless, Pinkerton, Suzuki)
Addio, fiorito assil (Pinkerton, Sharpless, Kate, Suzuki)
Suzuki! Suzuki! (Butterfly, Suzuki, Sharpless, Kate)
Come una mosca prigioniera (Suzuki, Butterfly)
Tu! Tu! Tu! (Butterfly)
Butterfly! Butterfly! Butterfly! (Pinkerton)

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THE STORY

ACT I

As the curtain rises, Pinkerton, a U.S. Naval Officer, and Goro, a Japanese marriage broker, are inspecting a small house, which sits on a hill and overlooks the bay. The servants and Suzuki, Butterfly's maid, enter and are introduced to Pinkerton. After they leave, Goro tells Pinkerton that his bride, Butterfly will arrive soon, as will the American Consul (Sharpless), the marriage Registrar, and all the bride's relatives, except her uncle who refuses to attend the wedding.

With echoes of the Star Spangled Banner, Pinkerton tells Sharpless that, throughout the world, the Yankee wanderer is not satisfied until he captures the flowers of every shore and the love of every beautiful woman. Pinkerton admits to Sharpless that he does not know if he is in love or just infatuated, but he is bewitched with Butterfly's innocence, charm and beauty, like a Butterfly fluttering around and then landing with silent grace, so beautiful, "that I must have her, even though I injure her butterfly wings." Sharpless takes his glass of whiskey and raises it in toast to Pinkerton's family at home to which Pinkerton replies, "and to the day when I will have a real wedding and marry a real American bride." Goro enters to tell them that Butterfly and her friends are coming.

Butterfly greets her relatives and tells them how much she loves Pinkerton. Sharpless tells Pinkerton that even if he considers the marriage a farce, she considers it very real. Butterfly and Pinkerton enter the little house and Butterfly shows him her box of treasures. She shows him a long narrow case, which she tells him holds her only sacred treasure, but she cannot open it, because there are too many people. Goro whispers to Pinkerton that it contains a gift from the Mikado to her father inviting him to commit hara-kiri. She then tells Pinkerton that yesterday she abandoned her ancestral religion and converted to Pinkerton's religion. The wedding celebration begins and everyone celebrates. The toasts are interrupted by an angry voice, the Bonze, Uncle of the bride and a Buddhist priest. He denounces her for abandoning her own religion, "You have renounced us and we renounce you." All the guests renounce her as they rush away. After they leave, Suzuki helps Butterfly dress for her wedding night. Pinkerton asks Butterfly if she loves him. She tells him that now she is happy. She asks Pinkerton to "Love me, please." He says, "I have caught you. You are mine." She replies, "Yes, for life."

ACT II

As the curtain opens, three years have passed. Suzuki tells Butterfly that their money will soon run out; if Pinkerton does not return quickly, they will suffer in a bad way. Butterfly assures Suzuki that he will return as he said, "When the robin makes his nest." She sings the famous aria, Un bel di ("One beautiful day"). One day they will see a puff of smoke on the horizon and a ship will appear and enter the harbor. She will wait on the hill and she will see a man in the distance. When he arrives, he will call "Butterfly" and speak names that he used to call her, "Dear wife, Orange Blossom" and Butterfly assures Suzuki that this will happen.

Suzuki departs, and Sharpless and Goro arrive in the garden. Sharpless draws a letter from his pocket and tells her that Pinkerton has written him a letter. She tells Sharpless that Goro has tried to marry her off to many suitors in the past, but she has refused. Goro arrives with Prince Yamadori, a wealthy man, who wishes Butterfly's hand in marriage. Butterfly again refuses him, saying that she is married.

Yamadori departs with his entourage, and Goro follows. Sharpless remains and tries to read the letter to her, but he gives up. He asks Butterfly, "What would you do if he were never to return?" Butterfly cries that, if Pinkerton never returned, she would go back to entertaining, or better, die. She goes into another room and returns carrying a child. Sharpless asks if Pinkerton knows, and Butterfly says, "No." Butterfly talks of what she would do if he did not return. Sharpless gets prepared to leave, and Butterfly asks him to tell Pinkerton of his son. Sharpless promises to tell him. Suzuki can be heard shouting. Goro and Suzuki enter. She says, "Every day he buzzes around, the snake. Every day he tells the four winds that no one knows who is the child's father!" In a rage, Butterfly runs to the shrine, seizes the dagger and threatens to stab him. Goro flees. Suzuki takes the child to the other room.

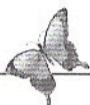
Just then, a cannon shot is heard. Suzuki and Butterfly watch from the hill as the ship enters the harbor and drops anchor. She tells Suzuki to prepare a fragrant bath and that the house must be filled with flowers. Everywhere! Then Butterfly sits at her dressing table and tells Suzuki to bring the child to her. As Suzuki does her hair, she asks, "What will they say when they see him return?" Butterfly, her child and Suzuki begin the long wait for Pinkerton to come. As the night falls, Suzuki and the baby soon fall asleep, but Butterfly keeps her vigil.

ACT III

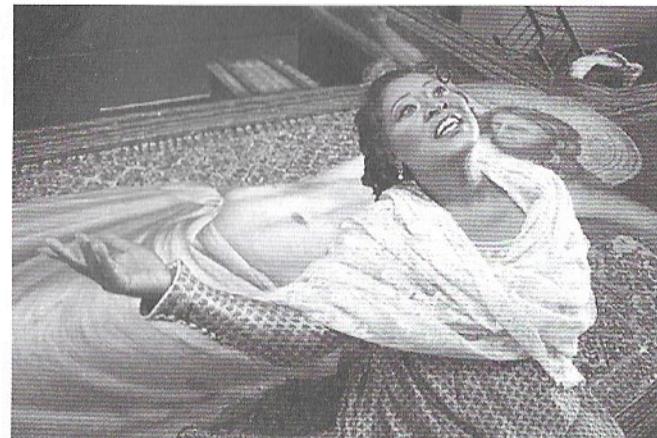
As the curtain rises, Suzuki and the baby are asleep, but Butterfly remains standing. Distant voices are heard from the bay. Suzuki awakes, and Butterfly tells her that Pinkerton will come. She takes her child into the next room to sleep. Suzuki awaits and then hears a knock at the door. It is Sharpless and Pinkerton. Suzuki sees a strange woman in the garden. She learns from Sharpless that this woman is Pinkerton's wife, Kate, and collapses to her knees in shock.

Sharpless tells Pinkerton that they can do nothing for Butterfly, but they must help the child. Pinkerton admits his wrong and leaves Sharpless to tell Butterfly the shameful news. He tells Sharpless that he cannot stand his reproach because he is a coward, and he quickly leaves as Suzuki and Kate enter from the garden. Kate asks Suzuki to assure Butterfly that she will look after Butterfly's child as if he were her own son.

Butterfly enters the room as Kate retreats to the garden, so that she will not be seen. She asks Suzuki why she is crying and then sees Sharpless and the woman in the garden. She realizes that she must give up her son. She asks Suzuki to go to the child. Then she kneels and prays to her ancestral gods. She rises, takes down her father's knife, kisses the blade, and reads the inscription: "To die with honor." The child enters without Suzuki. She bids him farewell, takes the knife, and goes behind the screen. The knife clatters to the floor as Butterfly staggers out with a scarf around her neck. She crawls to the child, embraces him and falls to the side. Outside, Pinkerton can be heard shouting, "Butterfly! Butterfly!" The door opens, and Pinkerton and Sharpless enter and rush to Butterfly. She, with a feeble gesture, points to the child and dies. Pinkerton falls on his knees, while Sharpless, sobbing, takes the child and kisses him.



Michèle Crider - Dramatic Soprano (*Madama Butterfly*)



International Opera Star, Michèle Crider, returns to her native Quincy to sing the leading role of Cio-Cio-San, (called Butterfly by her friends) in Muddy River Opera Company's production of *Madama Butterfly*. Ms. Crider attended Quincy Public Schools, Quincy University, Culver-Stockton College and then studied voice at the University of Iowa.

Ms. Crider won the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions twice. After she left Iowa, she went to Zurich, where she continued her studies at the studio of the Zurich Opera House. In 1988, she was the finalist of the Luciano Pavarotti competition. In 1989, she won one of the three first prizes at the Geneva International Music Competition. This prize directly led to her engagement as Leonora in *Il Trovatore* in Dortmund and to her participation in the International Grand Prix, which she then won. Her career in Opera took off and since that time she has sung in all of the major opera houses in the world.

Today, Michèle Crider is one of the preminent dramatic sopranos of her generation. In recent seasons, she returned to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera, the Vienna State Opera, to Budapest and Mannheim, Essen, Lisbon, Berlin, Prague State Opera, and Tel Aviv. She opened the previous season as *Madama Butterfly* for the LA Opera, *Tosca* for the Vienna State Opera, *Attila* and *Un ballo in Maschera* for the Hamburg State Opera, and then *Mefistofele* in Tel Aviv. This season, she has appeared in leading roles for the Tokyo Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Vienna Opera House, and a benefits concert for Haiti in Tbilisi, Georgia. Reviews of her appearance in January and February 2009 at the Israeli Opera House singing the role of Margherita in *Mefistofele* were, as usual, outstanding.

Past Biographies



Matthew Edwardsen - Tenor (Lt. Pinkerton)

Mr. Edwardsen hails from Indiana, but now lives in California. He spent many of his formative years near Springfield, Illinois. He is a graduate of Millikin University, in Decatur, Illinois, and it was here that he first discovered the amazing music and unbridled passion that is Opera. Upon graduation, he went to Los Angeles to pursue a career as an actor in television and film. Fortunately fate intervened again, when he met esteemed vocal instructor, Joann C. Zajac. She re-introduced him to opera. He has sung the leading roles in most of the favorite operas, *Carmen*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Mikado* and others. He has won many awards in his career and also enjoys singing in concert. Mr. Edwardsen makes his debut with the Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Pinkerton.



Parla Janzen - Soprano (Cover for Butterfly)

Ms. Janzen is a native of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She is a graduate of Chicago Opera Theatre's Young Artist Program. Her repertoire includes the roles of Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Mimi in *La Bohème* & Donna Giacinia in *La Finta Semplice*. She has performed in concerts of opera and operetta excerpts throughout the U.S. and Germany. Ms. Janzen, in the role of cover, will not appear in the performance of the opera, but she has rehearsed with the Company and, if necessary, would be able to step

into the role of Butterfly if Ms. Crider were unable to appear.



Jennifer Kosharsky - Mezzo-Soprano (Suzuki)

Ms. Kosharsky of Chicago has performed in many operas, operettas, musicals and concerts in the U.S. and Europe. She has performed the role of Suzuki with the Elgin Opera and Martinez Opera. She has won many awards. She also sings in Concert, most recently with the New Jersey Philharmonic and Park Ridge Orchestra. Among her upcoming appearances are the roles of Princess Eboli in Verdi's *Don Carlo* with Opera in the Heights, in Houston, Texas. Ms. Kosharsky makes her debut with Muddy River Opera in the role of Suzuki.



Thomas Hall - Baritone (Sharpless)

Mr. Hall of Chicago has recently performed the roles of Scarpia in *Tosca* with the DuPage Opera Theater, as well as Amonasro in *Aida* with the da Corneto Opera, and the title role in *Rigoletto* with Opera Quad Cities. His other noteworthy portrayals include Escamillo in *Carmen*, Marcello and Schaunard in *La Bohème*, and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*.



Jonathan Zeng - Tenor (Goro)

Mr. Zeng has performed with Cincinnati Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Memphis, Utah Festival Opera, and others in many different roles. He also sings in Concert and has appeared as soloist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the CCM Philharmonia, as well as the Jackson Symphony Orchestra among others. Mr. Zeng completed graduate course work at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Western Illinois University School of Music. He is making his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Goro.



Aaron Stegemöller - Bass-Baritone (The Bonze)

Mr. Stegemöller has had main stage appearances with Michigan Opera Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Festival of New Jersey and Lyric Opera of Chicago. He sings the role of Don Basilio each year with the Des Moines Opera's outreach production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville) where he has entertained literally thousands of children. The opera tours for six months through four states. Mr. Stegemöller is making his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of The Bonze.



Gregory Lewis - Baritone (Prince Yamadori)

Mr. Lewis began his vocal studies in the Pacific Northwest. Promptly following his nascence in solo vocal performance, he was invited to perform for the Tacoma Opera. While in the Pacific Northwest, he won several awards and performed many roles. In 2008, he moved to Galesburg, Illinois, where he teaches voice at Knox College and lives with his wife Sarah. He has since returned to Seattle to sing. He made his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the world premiere of "Abe, the Musical" as Mentor Graham.



Joy Boland - Soprano (Kate Pinkerton)

Ms. Boland of St. Louis recently appeared with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Mary Todd Lincoln in the world premiere of "Abe, the Musical". Ms. Boland recently made her debut with Tulsa Opera as Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She has sung extensively with Union Avenue Opera, most recently as Inez in *Il Trovatore*, and made her debut with Winter Opera St. Louis as Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville) this past November.



Tom Sitzler - Bass (Imperial Commissioner)

Tom Sitzler, just graduated with a Masters in Vocal Performance from Washington University in St. Louis. He holds a Bachelors in Vocal Performance and a Bachelors in Piano/Choral Education from Northern Arizona University. Tom resides in St. Louis and makes his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Imperial Commissioner.



Brandon Thomsen - Baritone (Official Registrar)

Mr. Thomsen is Director of Children's Theatre and head of education for the Quincy Community Theatre. He has appeared as an actor and singer in several musicals. He makes his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Official Registrar.

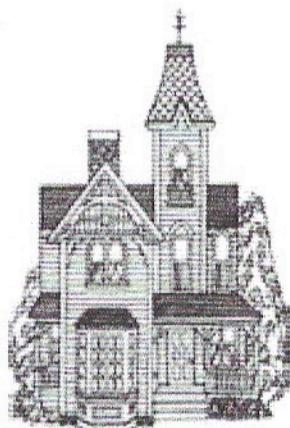


Ethan McVay - Child (Trouble)

Ethan is the son of Jonathan and Audra McVay. He is four years of age and is making his debut with Muddy River Opera Company in the role of Trouble.

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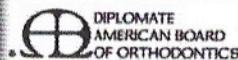


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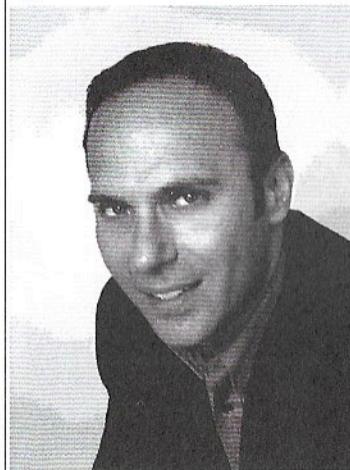
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Mark James Meier - Stage Director

Mark James Meier has built upon a very successful performing career to make his mark as a creative and energetic director for opera and musical theater. He has directed *Turandot*, *Falstaff*, *Norma*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Otello* and *Il Trovatore* for the Union Avenue Opera. He has directed the world premiere of "Abe The Musical", *La Boheme*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Mikado*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, the world premiere of David Conte's *The Gift of the Magi* and *How Nanita Learned To Make Flan* for Muddy River Opera Company; *Amahl And The Night Visitors* for Chamber Opera Chicago; *Madama Butterfly*, *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *Suor Angelica* for Elgin Opera, *The Mikado* and *Carmen* for Fargo-Moorhead Opera; the world premiere of *O Pioneers!* at the Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis and *The*

Phantom of the Orchestra for Quincy Symphony Orchestra. He also Assistant Directed *Turandot* for Opera Grand Rapids. Mr. Meier's production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* for Union Avenue Opera received the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Critic's Choice for 2008 Family-Friendly Opera.



Andrea Molina - Conductor



As a conductor and music director, Andrea Molina has led opera productions and outreach/educational initiatives for Opera New England (a part of Boston Lyric Opera), Western Illinois University and Opera Illinois. She recently served as Chorusmaster for the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre's production of *Madama Butterfly*. Ms. Molina recently joined the faculty of the Orfeo Music Festival in the Italian Alps where she conducts the Orfeo Music Festival Orchestra and teaches conducting and collaborative playing.

As a pianist and collaborative artist, Andrea is the pianist for the Molina Duo, a cello-piano team with Moisés Molina. Since 1992 the Molina Duo has given performances and master classes throughout North America, Central America and Europe. Andrea has been an official accompanist for the International Double Reed Society's convention and the Nashville Symphony Chorus and has served as the principal pianist for the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Quad Cities, and the Peoria Ballet. Currently, Ms. Molina is the principal pianist for the Peoria Symphony where she has appeared as a guest soloist, and she is now pursuing a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Iowa. She performs in the Centaur label release *String Chamber Music of Rebecca Clarke* and the New World release *Our Beauties Are Not Our Own*, the music of Paul Paccione.



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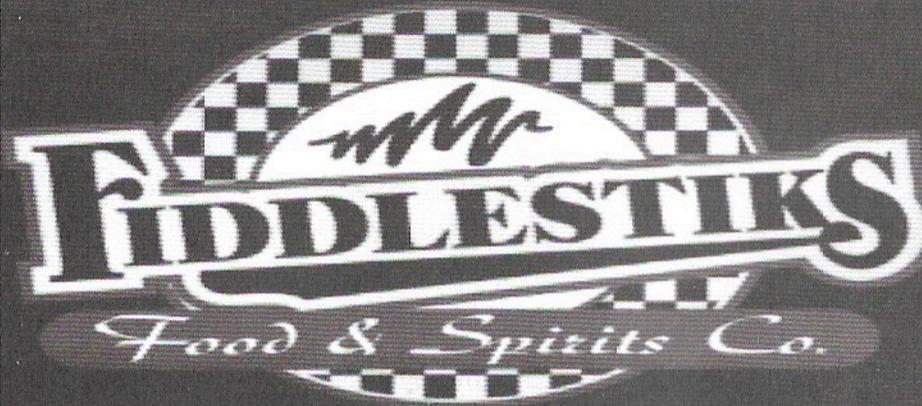
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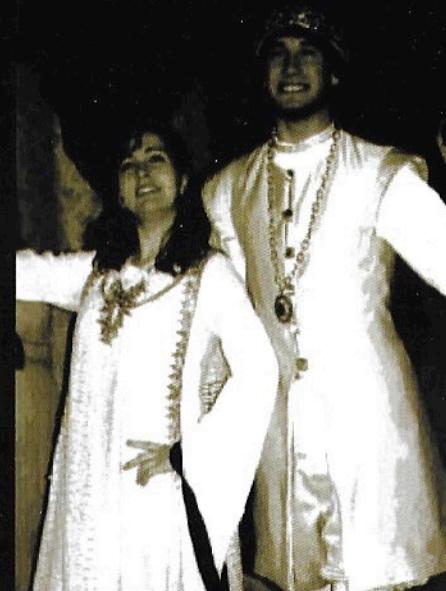
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